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SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
CONAN THE KING
50

PROLOGUE:

DAWN IN TARANTIA, CROWN SEAT OF AQUILONIA.

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO...

AND JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING...?

NIGHT WINDS

THIS STORY TAKES PLACE RIGHT AFTER CONAN THE KING #28 -- PAT.

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CAUTION, QUEEN AYELET--THE MORNING SUN BLOTS OUT THE MOUNTED FIGURE--

RELAX, NAHUB. IF "THE MOUNTED FIGURE" IS WHO I *THINK* HE IS--

--WE'VE LITTLE TO FEAR.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT...

...CONAN?

YOU'VE BEEN MY GUEST HERE IN TARANTIA THESE PAST MONTHS, AYELET.

NOW YOU SEEK TO STEAL AWAY BEFORE DAWN WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A FAREWELL...?

HA! THE BARBARIAN SEEKS TO TEACH *ME* PROPER DECORUM!

I *INHERITED* MY THRONE, CONAN. YOU *STOLE* YOURS!

I SEEM TO REMEMBER YOU CAME CRAWLING TO ME LAST YEAR, *BEGGING* FOR ASSISTANCE.

I ACCOMPANIED YOU BACK TO SHEM--HELPED *PUT* YOU ON YOUR "INHERITED" THRONE!*

NOW YOU LEAVE... SUDDENLY... WITHOUT EXPLANATION!

*KING CONAN #17--PAT.

ALL RIGHT, YOU WANT AN EXPLANATION?

I'M *AYELET*...QUEEN OF SHEM, HERE, IN AQUILONIA. HOWEVER, I'M JUST ONE QUEEN TOO MANY.

WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT--?

ZENOBIA.

QUEEN ZENOBIA.

CROM AND MITRA, GIRL. WHAT?! *WHAT?!*

YOU TRULY DO NOT UNDERSTAND, DO YOU, CONAN?

I'M IN *LOVE* WITH YOU. I HAVE BEEN FOR QUITE SOME TIME. STAYING AROUND HERE IS JUST TOO PAINFUL.

YOU LOVE, ZENOBIA. IT'S TAKEN A LONG TIME FOR ME TO REALIZE--

--I'LL *NEVER* WIN YOUR LOVE.

I *HATE* SPEECHES, AYELET.

IF YOU'RE GOING, JUST *GO.*

WITH A LISTLESS SIGH, CONAN RELUCTANTLY HEADS BACK TOWARDS HIS CASTLE...

...ALL THE WAY WISHING IT WAS HE FLYING AWAY FROM AQUILONIA WITH THE WIND AT HIS BACK!

SOME TIME LATER...

AYELET IS GREATLY SADDENED. SHE'D HOPED TO HAVE LEFT UNSEEN...

...TO HAVE AVOIDED THE CIMMERIAN'S ICY GAZE...

...THE STEEL-BLUE EYES THAT GRIP HER HEART AND TORTURE HER SOUL.

SHE'LL NEVER WIN HIS LOVE. SHE KNOWS THAT. NOW.

SUDDENLY, THE WIND SHIFTS.

WELL-TRAINED ASSASSINS.

SUDDENLY, AYELET HAS **OTHER** PRESSING CONCERNS.

ASSASSINS!

ASSASSINS WHO SOMEHOW KNEW JUST WHERE AND WHEN TO STRIKE!

HER MEN ARE ALL DEAD.

FLIGHT WOULD BE USELESS AND DEMEANING.

ALL RIGHT, CURS! YOU WANT A FIGHT--?!

TOO MANY OF THEM. ALL OVER IN THE BUSH.

IT'S A MIRACLE SHE'S SURVIVED THIS LONG.

<IS SHE DEAD?>

<NAY, MY LORD. SHE YET LIVES!>*

*TRANSLATED FROM VENDYHAN--PAT.

<GOOD.>

<TIE HER UP AND FOLLOW ME.>

<AS YOU WISH, BARON MALORIC!>

END PROLOGUE.

TODAY...

BARON MALORIC!!

YES, YES, COUNSELOR? PUBLIUS... WHAT IS IT?!

BY MY MORTAL EYES, 'TIS IMPROPER FOR YOU, THE KING'S REGENT, TO SIT UPON CONAN'S THRONE!

EGADS, MAN, EMPLOY SOME MEASURE OF *REVERENCE*, WILL YOU?!

COME ON, PUBLIUS, YOU *KNOW* MALORIC'S *REVERENCE* IS *RESERVED* FOR *ROYALTY*!

HA! WERE THE KING HERE, OUR DEAR BARON FROM CANTRIUM WOULD BE *BESIDE* HIMSELF WITH RESPECT AND ADMIRATION!

POOR MALORIC, HOW HIS KNEES MUST ACHE FROM ALL THAT BOWING AND SCRAPING.

PROSPERO, TODAY IS THE BIRTHDAY OF *PRINCESS RADEGUND*!

CONAN MUST, BY TRADITION, PRESENT HIS DAUGHTER WITH A *GIFT* AT TONIGHT'S CEREMONY.

THE KING WANDERED OFF FROM THE CASTLE, LAST NIGHT, AND NO ONE'S SEEN HIM SINCE!

PUBLIUS... CONAN IS QUITE CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF HIMSELF!

MAYHAP, BARON, YET OUR LIEGE IS TOTALLY INCOMPETENT...

...WHEN IT COMES TO MANAGING HIS SOCIAL CALENDAR.

NOT TO WORRY FELLOW...

...I WAS *WITH* THE KING LAST NIGHT. WE DROWNED OUR SORROWS IN A BACKSTREET TAVERN.

A PAIR OF SHEMITES BURST IN--*THANK YOU, MALORIC, FOR TELLING THEM WHERE TO FIND US*--AND BEGGED AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KING!

SEEMS QUEEN AYELET, WHO QUIETLY LEFT OUR GATES SOME MONTHS GONE, NEVER ARRIVED IN HER SHEMITE HOMELAND!

CONAN DISPATCHED THE ***BLACK DRAGONS*** TO INVESTIGATE, AND THEN HE HIMSELF VANISHED ON ME! *

I ASSUME CONAN'S GONE LOOKING FOR THE QUEEN.

SEE? YOU'RE WORRIED OVER NOTHING, PUBLIUS.

* SEE CTK #28 FOR DETAILS--PAT.

OUR LIEGE WILL APPEAR IN DUE TIME! MEANWHILE, I'VE MANY PREPARATIONS TO SET BEFORE TONIGHT'S CEREMONY!

PROSPERO, MY OLD FRIEND, I'VE DECIDED.

I ***HATE*** THAT MAN.

HE'S TOO ***PATHETIC*** FOR HATRED, PUBLIUS.

AND FAR TOO ***OILY*** TO BE TRUSTED.

HMMM... SO CONAN HAS WANDERED OFF ON SOME GRAND CAMPAIGN...

...POSSIBLY TO AVOID HIS DAUGHTER RADEGUND'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

...HOW DELICIOUS.

THE FOOL KING WILL ***NEVER*** FIND QUEEN AYELET... FOR ***I*** HAVE HER! AND, IF RUNNING IN CIRCLES CAUSES HIM TO DISGRACE HIS DAUGHTER AND SNUB THE MASSES...

...ALL THE BETTER!

TAURUS, YOU LITTLE TROLL! LEAVE ME ALONE!

HA! FATHER'S WANDERED OFF ON SOME DRUNKEN BINGE, RADEGUND...

DON'T YOU HAVE SOME SMALL ANIMALS TO TORTURE?!

...HE'S GOING TO MISS YOUR STUPID PARTY--WHA?!

PRINCESS RADEGUND!

A THOUSAND PARDONS, MOST FAIR AND LOVELY FLOWER OF AQUILONIA...

...LET ME ASSIST...

HANDS OFF!

DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH MY SISTER, MAGGOT, OR I'LL REND YOUR BOWELS AND LEAVE YOU GAGGING IN YOUR OWN BLOOD!

OF...OF COURSE, PRINCE TAURUS!

MY APOLOGIES!

GOOD DAY...

SOMETHING ABOUT THAT DOG I DON'T LIKE... OR TRUST.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, MY BROTHER.

HE REMINDS ME OF YOU.

FARTHER DOWN THE HALL...

MUST MAKE A NOTE TO GET RID OF THAT TAURUS WHELP...

...WHEN I'M CROWNED...

...KING...?

...LORDS OF DARKNESS...

WE MUST SPEAK, MALORIC.

GAAHHH!

TARQUIN--!

...CAPTAIN OF THE BLACK DRAGONS!

KING CONAN HAS COMMANDED I TAKE MY DRAGONS AND SEARCH FOR THE MISSING QUEEN AYELET!

THIS ACTION WILL LEAVE THE KING UNPROTECTED.

WE BLACK DRAGONS ARE THE ELITE OF THE KING'S LEGIONNAIRES... HIS PERSONAL FORCE!

WHEN COUNT TROCERO WAS THE KING'S REGENT, HE WOULD USUALLY, QUIETLY COUNTERMAND THE MORE RECKLESS OF THE KING'S ORDERS...

TROCERO! TROCERO! HOW I TIRE OF HIS NAME!

TROCERO RESIGNS*, TARQUIN! I AM THE KING'S REGENT NOW! WE'LL BE DOING THINGS MY WAY!

IF THE KING ORDERED YOU TO DO SOMETHING, JUST DO IT!

*CONAN THE KING #26--PAT.

...PLEASE...?

AS YOU WISH

ONE MORE THING...

STOP SNEAKING UP ON ME LIKE.

...THAT. SET! BLASTED BLACK DRAGONS!

. WHO DO THEY THINK THEY ARE ..?

FRIGHTENED ME TO D--

--NYAAHHH!

THE WIZARD!

GREETINGS, MALORIC

HAVE YOU GONE MAD?! WHAT IF SOMEONE WERE TO SEE YOU?!

WHAT IF ANYONE GUESSED YOU ARE MY PERSONAL MAGE ENLISTED TO AID ME IN MY SCHEME TO STEAL CONAN'S THRONE?!

BEGONE, WIZARD! WHATEVER WE NEED TO DISCUSS MAY BE DONE IN PRIVATE--

RELEASE ME, MAGGOT!

I'VE OTHER GRAVE CONCERNS.

OWWW--!

I'LL BE LEAVING TARANTIA TEMPORARILY TO SEEK OUT SOME STOLEN PROPERTY OF MINE.*

* SEE CYK #27 FOR DETAILS--PAT.

I WARN YOU, MALORIC, TO NOT LAUNCH ANY NEW CAMPAIGN AGAINST CONAN IN MY ABSENCE!

OH, NO! SOMEONE APPROACHES!

WIZARD! BEGONE! PLEASE

MALORIC...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHA--T!

QUEEN ZENOBIA!

ER . AH..

NOTHING MOST ROYAL HIGHNESS. .

I GROW FAINT DOING THE WILL OF OUR SOVEREIGN LIEGE.

GREETINGS, LYSANDER

MALORIC

NOW THERE'S A DEEPLY TROUBLED MAN, LYSANDER

NO MORE SO THAN ANY OTHER MY QUEEN

YOU OF COURSE REFER TO MY HUSBAND'S HAVING APPOINTED YOU MY PERSONAL BODYGUARD

...RATHER THAN GIVING YOU THE GUARD CAPTAIN'S POST?

HOW CAN ANY MAN GRUMBLE QUEEN ZENOBIA, WHEN IN THE PRESENCE. .

OF SUCH STUNNING BEAUTY?

YES HOW?

NIGHT IN THE TEMPLE OF MITRA

WHERE IS HE

HOW LONG MUST WE WAIT

DISGRACEFUL

OH MY MORTAL EYE, TROUBLESOME COME THE PRIEST OF MITRA AGAIN 'WHAT SHALL

TELL HIM CONAN WENT OFF TO SPEND THE DAY IN THE WILD LANDS AND MEDITATION

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM' NEVER' NEVER'

OH WHY DOESN'T HE LOVE ME MOTHER?

PLEASE I'M CERTAIN SOMETHING URGENT HAS HELD YOUR FATHER

WAIT .

I ASK THEE!

HE IS AKRIM!

NIGHT WINDS

[illegible] A NEW SAGA
OF EXCITEMENT [illegible]
[illegible] BY

JAMES OWSLEY — PLOT
GEOF ISHERWOOD — ART

JANICE CHIANG • LETTERING
GEORGE ROUSSOS • [illegible]
PAT REDDING • EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO • EDITOR IN CHIEF

[illegible] ORIGINAL
[illegible] BY
ALAN ZELENETZ,
MARC SILVESTRI,
GEOF ISHERWOOD,
& JAMES OWSLEY

MITRA BLESS YOU, DAUGHTER, ON THIS DAY.

OH FATHER MY MY..

A THOUSAND SOUL - FELT THANKS, SIRE!

HMPH! WHERE D HE [illegible] THAT RELIC

CONAN - NOT HERE!

:MMTPHH!:

:GASP!:

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MAKE IT

WILD HORSES COULDN'T KEEP ME AWAY DAUGHTER AFTER ALL

.. WE ARE FAMILY.

NEARLY A FORTNIGHT LATER

WHERE ARE THEY TARQUIN?

STILL A LEAGUE OFF, MY LORD

THEY MOVE SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY.

TROOP STRENGTH?

BARELY A HANDFUL, MY LORD. THEY ARE POORLY ARMED AND NOISY

SHALL I COMMAND MY ARMY TO INTERCEPT THEM?

NO TARQUIN.

THESE INVADERS ARE MAKING NO SECRET OF THEIR INCURSION INTO MY LANDS.

LET'S GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT

MEET ME AT THE SUMMIT IN AN HOUR

MEANWHILE

NO THIS ISN'T IT, EITHER.

BLAST IT ALL TO ARALU!

HOW LONG MUST I HOBBLE ALONG.

CLOP

...ON THIS FREAKISH GOAT'S FOOT?

MY SOMETIMES-TUTOR, *MADZANDRA*, TRANSFORMED ME INTO A GOAT TO HIDE ME FROM MY FATHER *

FATHER BURST INTO THE WITCH'S DEN BEFORE MY RE-TRANSFORMATION WAS COMPLETE! ZANDRA'S GRIMOIRE WAS DESTROYED IN THE HOUSE'S SACKING! *

I'VE SINCE SEARCHED VAINLY FOR A PROPER SPELL TO COMPLETE MY METAMORPHOSIS!

* SEE CONAN THE KING #24 FOR DETAILS -PAT.

I ONLY GAINED INTEREST IN THE OCCULT SCIENCES TO *ANNOY* MY FATHER!

I NEVER THOUGHT MY CURSORY FASCINATION WOULD LEAVE ME A DEFORMED WRETCH !!

THRUM! THRUM!

COULD THAT BE - FATHER?

SNAP!

BETTER NOT TAKE CHANCE...

I DOUBT MY STUDDY SIRE WOULD FIND MY ILLUSION AMUSING.

OH

IT'S JUST YOU, MALORIC.

A THOUSAND PARDONS FOR THIS INTERRUPTION LORD PRINCE TAURUS!

I'VE BROUGHT YOU SWEETS... A TOKEN OF MY ESTEEM!

I'M EAGER TO MAKE AMENDS FOR OUR DISAGREEMENT EARLIER

OF COURSE YOU ARE!

COME IN, SIR! COME IN!

ER AH INSIDE...? I, UMM.

I HAVE URGENT MATTERS, PRINCE, WHICH MUST BE ATTENDED TO.

SURE YOU DO

TAKE A WHIFF MALORIC!

HUH WHA

LOTUS POWDER, BARON TINGLE WITH A SIMPLE SPELL OF SUBSERVIENCE

YOU ARE WITHIN MY POWER, BARON

NOW, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TAKE ME ON THESE "ROUNDS" OF YOURS

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'RE *REALLY* UP TO.

SOON.

REPORT, TAHQUIN.

[illegible]

[illegible]

FINE.

LET THEM

[illegible]

[illegible]

I WISH.

[illegible]

[illegible]

MEANWHILE, IN A SEEDY SECTION OF TARANTIA...

MALORIC HAS NO IDEA HE'S BEING FOLLOWED!

I'M TOTALLY INVISIBLE TO HIM

SO MALORIC'S "ROUNDS" LEAD HIM TO AN ABANDONED TENEMENT...

'TIS I, MALORIC!*

KNOCK KNOCK

*TRANSLATED FROM VENDYHAN--PAT.

(WHA- BEHIND YOU--)

(--THE PRINCE!)

(WHAT GAME DOES MALORIC PLAY?)

(PERHAPS HE MEANS TO KILL THE BOY!)

(WHAT ARE YOU ALL BABBLING ABOUT?)

WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NEXT ROOM...

WOW! VENDYHAN ASSASSINS... SIMILAR TO THOSE RUMORED TO HAVE OVERRUN THE BARON'S CASTLE DURING FATHER'S VISIT TO CANTRIUM!*

*[illegible] -PAT.

(THIS MUST BE SOME TRICK!)

(I SAY WE KILL HIM NOW!)

HEY! I'M TALKING TO YOU IDIOTS!

WHAT'S INSIDE THE -

NEVER MIND.

I'LL JUST SEE FOR MY - -

- - LORDS OF DARKNESS - -

- IT'S QUEEN AYELET!

SO, THE LONG MISSING QUEEN HAS BEEN IN MALORIC'S CLUTCHES ALL THIS TIME!

WHY, MALORIC, I'M ALMOST IMPRESSED!

T- - TAURUS- - -!

(ENOUGH OF THIS!)

(THE BOY DIES NOW!!)

PROOOWWWLL!

AAAIIIEEE!!

CRACKLEEE

-HMMPH!!, MALORIC'S RUN OFF WITH THE REST- TERRIFIED OF A SIMPLE ILLUSION!

TAURUS FREE ME--!

HOLD ON, AYELET

I'M THINKING ABOUT IT

NO. AT THE SUMMIT

HERE THEY COME

THE MYSTERIOUS INVADERS CREEP SILENTLY INWARD

THE DRAGONS CLOSE RANKS.

SUDDENLY A HUMMING PEACE FALLS UPON THE MEADOW

AND THEN IT BEGINS

AHAAIIEE!!

THE SAVAGES ARE SURROUNDED TO ONE

WAVE AFTER WAVE OF DEATH RACES AT THEM

THEY WELCOME THE CHALLENGE

AND IN THE CENTER OF IT ALL

A GIANT OF A MAN

A MAN OF IRON

A MAN OF WAR.

A CIMMERIAN.

WHILE, IN TARANTIA.

WELL, AYELET, I COULD LET YOU GO RETURN YOU TO FATHER AND ALL THAT...

BUT I M NOT SURE THAT S THE WAY TO GO, HERE.

I WONDER ARE YOU MORE VALUABLE TO ME AS A CAPTIVE OR FREE? HOW BEST TO AFFLICT MY DEAR FATHER...

TAURUS . YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS?!

I'VE BEEN HELD HERE THESE MANY MONTHS BEATEN AND ABUSED BY THESE JACKALS

HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK OF LEAVING ME HERE .?

I AM YOUR FATHER'S GUEST IN HIS LAND BY I AM A QUEEN OF SHEM!

I DEMAND YOU RELEASE ME IMMEDIATELY!

YOU ARE A LOVESICK GIRL VAINLY SEEKING MY FATHER'S AFFECTIONS, AYELET.

SPARE ME THE "ROYAL THIS- AND-THAT"

NOW, HOW SHALL THIS SITUATION BEST SERVE ME.

THESE MEN ARE **STYGIAN DEVIL PRIESTS**, KING CONAN I'VE SEEN THEIR LIKE BEFORE.

THEIR MISSION?

UNDISCERNABLE, MY LORD I'M HAVING A LITTLE DIFFICULTY WITH THEIR PECULIAR DIALECT

THESE DEVILS **WORSHIP** DEATH, MY KING PERISHING IN COMBAT IS, TO THEM, A HIGH HONOR.

VERY WELL, DRACONS

HONOR THEM!

YOUR EARS ONLY.

SURVIVE AN
ATTACK SUCH AS THIS

MANNER OF
CREDIBILITY TEST--

AS I WAS SAYING, MY LORD, THESE PRIESTS HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU IF YOU **SURVIVE**!

APPARENTLY, YOU WILL ONLY HEAR THIS MESSAGE AFTER YOU'VE DISPATCHED EVERY LAST PRIEST TO HIS ANCESTORS!

IF WE KILL THEM ALL, **WHO** WILL DELIVER THEIR BLASTED MESSAGE "F"

CROM TAKE THESE FOOLS!

SNAP!

MAYBE FATHER WILL GIVE ME A HERO'S WELCOME

STOP DAWDLING, WILL YOU?

WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

VANQUISHED, MY LORD

WE HAVE PASSED

NOW YOU WILL RECEIVE THEIR

LOOKS LIKE THEIR "MESSENGER" HAS ARRIVED!

HAIL, O' KING OF KINGS!

I AM ORACLE TO THE DEVIL-PRIESTS OF STYGIA!

THAT YOU HAVE SO HONORED THEM WITH STEEL AND DEATH PROVE YOU TO BE WORTHY OF THE GIFT I BRING YOU!

AND, THE WARNING AS WELL...

WHILE...

AWAY FROM ME DOG! I AM AYELET, QUEEN OF AHLMET IN SHEM!

UNHAND ME YOU UNWASHED RABBLE!

I AM THE KING'S SON!!

TAURUS, CAN'T YOU CONJURE SOMETHING?!

I TOLD YOU MY ILLUSORY POWERS ARE LIMITED, WOMAN!

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE AN ARCHER?!

AN ARCHER--? WHY, I'M AN ARCHER!

HEY- SAVE SOME FOR ME -

WHACK!

HOW DARE YOU!!

THAT'S IT! HIT THEM!

THUD!

RELEASE THE BOY! HE'S JUST A TOAD...

BUT HE'S MY TOAD!

AYELET HAS BEEN HELD IN CAPTIVITY FOR MONTHS

SHE'S BEEN BEATEN AND CRUELLY ABUSED

HER AIM IS GONE.

HEY WATCH IT!!

YOU ALMOST HIT ME!

WOW!

WHAMM!

BLOOD-

IDIOT! YOU KILLED HER!

I--I THINK I HEAR MY WIFE CALLING--!

KNOW YE, O' KING, THAT THERE COMES TO THIS LAND A DARK AND DEADLY EVIL.

ONE SO POWERFUL AS IT SHALL SWEEP OVER THE KINGDOMS OF MAN AND CONSUME THEM UTTERLY.

IN DAYS PAST, YOU ALONE HAVE STOOD AGAINST THIS DARK FORCE.

AND SO IT IS THAT THIS DAY DEATH MAY ONLY BE STAYED BY YOUR HAND.

THIS IS THE KEY TO YOUR VICTORY!

WHY HELP ME, ORACLE?

I THOUGHT YOUR PEOPLE WORSHIPPED DEATH!

'TIS A SIMPLE MATTER OF SURVIVAL, LORD KING!

USE THE KEY!

STAND IN THE DAY OF DEATH!

THE GREAT EVIL WILL TOUCH THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE UNJUST ALIKE!

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD THANK YOU, ORACLE.

SSZZZAAACCKKK!

YOU CANNOT SLAY THAT WHICH DOES NOT TRULY LIVE, O KING!

THE EVIL IS COMING.

USE THE KEY...

USE THE KEY...

LATER

WELL AYELET, I TRIED.

I TRIED TO DO THE RIGHT THING TO WALK THE STRAIGHT PATH

BOY WOULDN'T FATHER HAVE BEEN SURPRISED HAD I TRIUMPHANTLY ARRIVED AT COURT WITH YOU! WHY HE MIGHT HAVE

MIGHT HAVE EVEN *EMBRACED* ME

BUT, THEN YOU WENT AND *DIED.*

THANKS A LOT

NOW I'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR WHATEVER MISCHIEF YOUR DEATH WILL BRING.

I SUPPOSE IT'S BEST THIS WAY, AYELET. WALKING IN THE LIGHT JUST DOESN'T SUIT ME VERY WELL..

..ANY MORE THAN YOUR ROMANTIC OVERTURES TOWARDS FATHER SUITED YOU

IT'S TIME TO FACE THE TRUTH, AYELET

..*NEITHER* OF US WILL EVER WIN MY FATHER'S LOVE!

I ALMOST THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T ARRIVE IN TIME, MY LOVE. ADEGUND WEPT UNCEASINGLY

SHE'S A *CHILD*, ZENOBIA SHE WEEPS OVER *EVERYTHING*.

STILL I'M GLAD

CONN

BACK IN A DAY

THE BOY'S BEEN GONE A YEAR NOW

THINKING OF HIM ANY LESS PAINFUL

CONAN MAKES

SHE'S LOST HIM AGAIN.

FOR THE LOS OF CONAN'S

WHERE

AND, IN THE THRONE ROOM BARON MALORIC BROODS.

HE'S HARD-PRESSED TO REMEMBER JUST WHERE HE WENT OR WHAT HE DID THIS EVENING.

HE'D SUDDENLY FOUND HIMSELF WANDERING THE STREETS OF TARANTIA AIMLESSLY...

...MUTTERING SOMETHING ABOUT **DOGS**...

HE SUSPECTS HIS OWN WIZARD OF COMPLICITY IN HIS CONFUSION.

MALORIC SWEARS TO DEAL WITH THAT MYSTERIOUS STYGIAN ONCE HE'S HELPED MALORIC TOPPLE CONAN FROM HIS THRONE.

ONCE MALORIC IS CROWNED **KING**.

IN THE MEANTIME, MALORIC HAS HIS PLAN. MALORIC HAS PATIENCE.

AND, HIDDEN AWAY IN TARANTIA, HE HAS THE QUEEN AYELET.

SO, HE WILL WAIT... AND HE WILL PLAN. EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT IN TIME...

...NO ONE SUSPECTS A THING!

MUCH LATER, IN THE WOODS SURROUNDING THE CASTLE GROUNDS...

¡GASP!

DO NOT SPEAK!

YOU ARE BOTH INTRUDERS ON ROYAL GROUND, AND ARE SUBJECT TO ARREST.

AWAKE, BOY!

YOU ARE BOTH COMING WITH...

...MITRA! IT'S... IT'S...

...PRINCE CONN!

NEXT: • THE **TRUTH** ABOUT CONAN'S SON! • THE FINAL FATE OF BARON AEMILIUS! • MORE FUN WITH TAURUS! THE RETURN OF THE PRINCE CONN SOLO FEATURE! • ALL THIS IN **JUST SIXTY DAYS!** • BE HERE FOR...

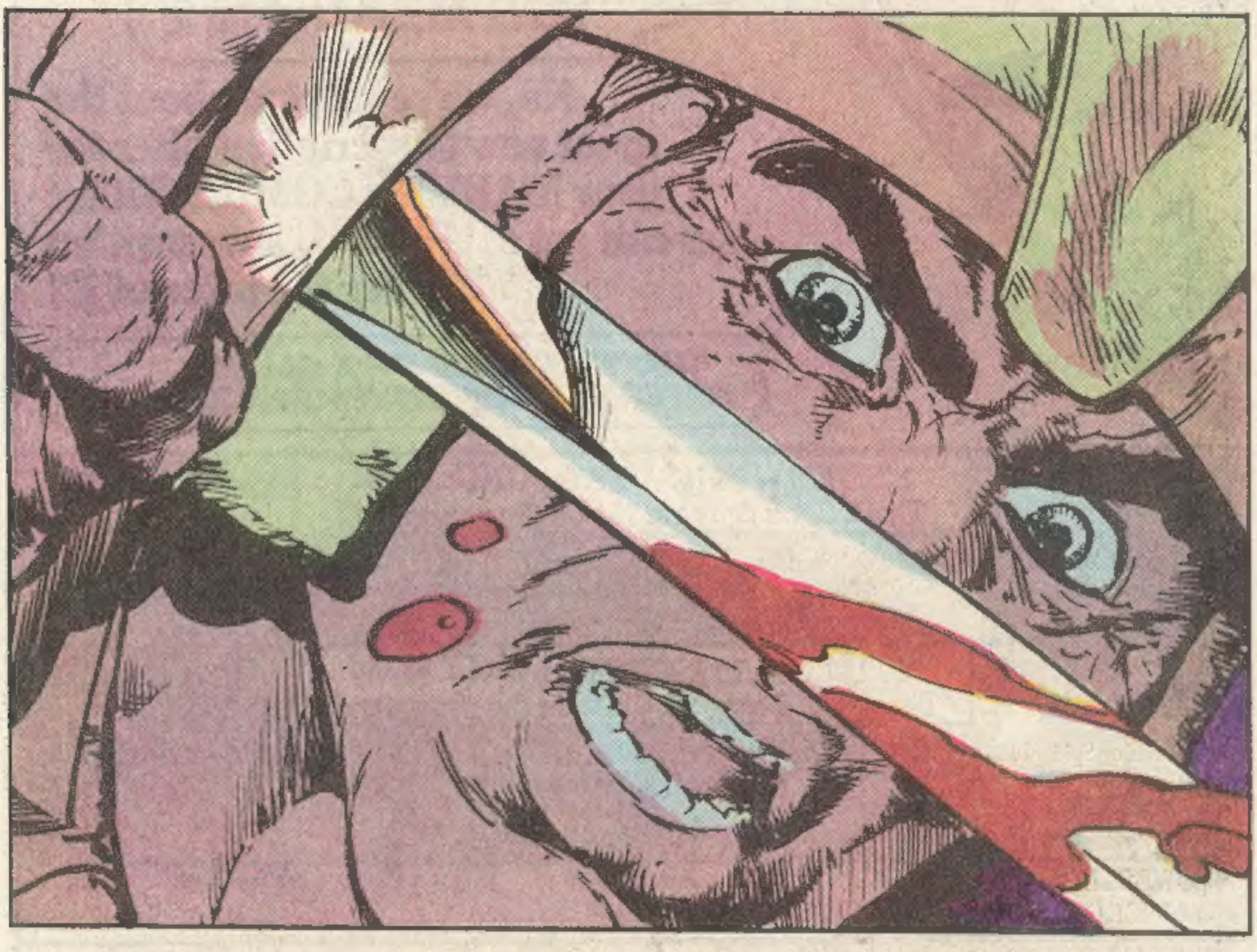
NIGHT JUSTICE!

KING CONAN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

PAT REDDING
EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!



Dear Editor,

I have just finished reading KING CONAN #47 for the third time and I want to tell you that it was a good issue —not your best, but still good. What I mean to say is that I think Queen Zenobia is acting out of character. If she can join Conan on a battlefield knowing that she might get killed, I think she would understand why Conan couldn't be there when she needed him to be. By the way, I agree with Mongo in issue #47, Conn should be more independent. Crom lives.

Kelly Dombrosky
Box 62, B
Bellis, Alberta, Canada

Stay with us, Kelly, Conn begins his independence with #51. We'll be continuing his solo adventures in eight pages each issue. These short Conn stories will be written by Adam Blaustein and illustrated by Dale Eaglesham.

Dear Editors,

I would like to say that I've been reading CONAN THE KING since issue #23 and let me tell you, they are all great. The art, story, and color are all excellent.

The main thing I like about CONAN THE KING is the large-scale warfare. This has to be done for Conan to defend the people of Aquilonia. I think Conan makes the perfect king, with all of his fighting background. He has been a general, mercenary and a monarch once or twice. I like the fact that although Conan is in his sixties, he has the agility of a much younger man. I guess it's because he's a Cimmerian and that never leaves you.

Why did you have to kill Rufio? He's been around so long. He was invaluable. He was Conan's jester, ambassador, and aide, and he even saved Conan's life on a few occasions. He used to give Conan advice on battle strategy. Rufio was a useful guide and, if he hadn't been around, Conan's armies would have been lost all the time. You killed one of my favorite characters.

On the other hand, I'm glad you killed off Caliastros. I didn't really like him. He always wanted things his way and acted like a spoiled brat. If someone didn't give him what he wanted, he'd torch them.

On the whole, you are doing a great job and I salute you. Until next time, farewell.

Dave Clifton
Hcr 32 Box 65
Rolla, MO 65401

Dear Wielders of the Red Pen,

At first I was gonna write in for a no-prize from CONAN THE KING #38. But then I decided I'd just ask a question instead. In Robert E. Howard's stories about Conan, Conan had a beard when he was king. Will Conan's beard be showing up in CONAN THE KING?

That's it. Thanks for all the good stories.

Jacob Liberman
(No address given).

We have no plans for a beard at present, Jacob.

Readers! Let us know what you think of the new team of talent on CONAN THE KING: James C. Owsley and Geof Isherwood. In this very golden fiftieth issue, we backtrack to elaborate on a previous storyline (circa #27). This appears to be a simpler time in King Conan's reign, before the avenging empiric war, when violence was more personal, sparked by wild romance, court intrigue, arcane magicks and novice sorcery.

Next issue:

"Night Justice", by James C. Owsley and Geof Isherwood. Cover by Michael Kaluta. On sale in two months—be there!

BULLPEN MINI BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

Boy, the best way to keep a fantastic secret is to **tell** everyone. Then nobody **believes** it!

–Ben, SOLARMAN #1

ITEM: It isn't every day one of our Marvel super heroes gets a plug from the Chief Executive of the United States—that's right, *President Ronald Reagan*–but that's just what happened last May 3 on Baltimore's 11 o'clock news on WMAR's Channel 2 Newscene! When asked whether he reads his horoscope in the daily newspaper, Mr. Reagan replied, "Every morning I start the day the first thing I read in the paper are the comics. I'm just dying right now to see how Spider-Man is going to get out from under that great big heavy wrestler." We trust the President did find out how our wondrous web-slinger escaped that particular dilemma in our popular daily *Spider-Man* strip (still written by The Man himself, *Stan Lee*). What we want to know is how the President managed to escape answering the newsman's question about astrology! (Maybe the Chief dazzled him with web-fluid!)

ITEM: Last month we told you *how* we've taken our Assistant Editors Workshop on the road to various summer comics conventions. This time we're going to spill the beans about another convention attention-getter sponsored by Marvel's wacky staffers. Unleashed upon an unsuspecting fandom from Atlanta to San Diego this season was a little program entitled "The Marvel Madmen Strike Back!" Those who attended thought they were in for a standard Q and A session, but instead, they got to see some of their batty Bullpenners improvising outrageous antics and kooky kapers, reinforcing Marvel's rep as not only a major force but also a major *farce* in the comics industry. Picture, if you will, editors *Howard Mackie*, *Bobbie Chase*, and *Terry Kavanagh* demonstrating their juggling prowess! Picture a Pitt-Juice Chug-Off between X-MEN writer *Chris Claremont* and Exec Editor *Mark Gruenwald* (Chris won—he mutated the most!). Picture Editor in Chief *Tom DeFalco* on his hands and knees as the foundation of a human pyramid. (All right—so it wasn't "Stan Lee at Carnegie Hall"! What is?)

ITEM: On Thursday, July 14th, the magnificent Marvel Bullpenners played the second of three softball games against the diabolical DC Bullets. Although we maintained a steady lead throughout the game, DC dazzled us with some dynamic ball playing in the final inning to pull ahead and win the game at 8-7. Their victory ties the series at one apiece and the rubber match is scheduled for September 8 in Central Park. We'll let you know how it went (if they don't beat us to it—yip!).

CHECKLIST

- ☐ DARE DEVIL #262
- ☐ SEMPER FI #2
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #40
- ☐ WOLFPACK Limited Series #6
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #17
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #46
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #10
- ☐ CONAN THE KING #28 & #29!
- ☐ EX CALIBUR #4
- ☐ STRIKE FORCE: MORITURI #25
- ☐ TALES OF G.I. JOE #13
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #349
- ☐ SOLO AVENGERS #14
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #311
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #71
- ☐ SOLARMAN #1
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #66
- ☐ WOLVERINE #3
- ☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #70
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #351
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #219
- ☐ AVENGERS #299
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #214
- ☐ G.I. JOE #82
- ☐ PUNISHER #15
- ☐ SILVER SURFER #19
- ☐ UNCANNY X-MEN #240
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #29
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #11
- ☐ SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER Limited Series #3
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #322
- ☐ IRON MAN #238
- ☐ SPEEDBALL #4
- ☐ THOR #399
- ☐ POWER PACK #43
- ☐ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #146
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #48
- ☐ X-FACTOR
- ☐ X-TERMINATORS Limited Series #4
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #2
- ☐ G.I. JOE EUROPEAN MISSIONS #5
- ☐ THE 'NAM #26

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAG. #13
- ☐ THE 'NAM MAGAZINE #6
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #155
- ☐ CONAN SAGA #20

MARVEL BOOKSHELF

- ☐ NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D. Graphic Album
- ☐ G.I. JOE Trade Paperback
- ☐ MARVEL MASTERWORKS: THE AVENGERS